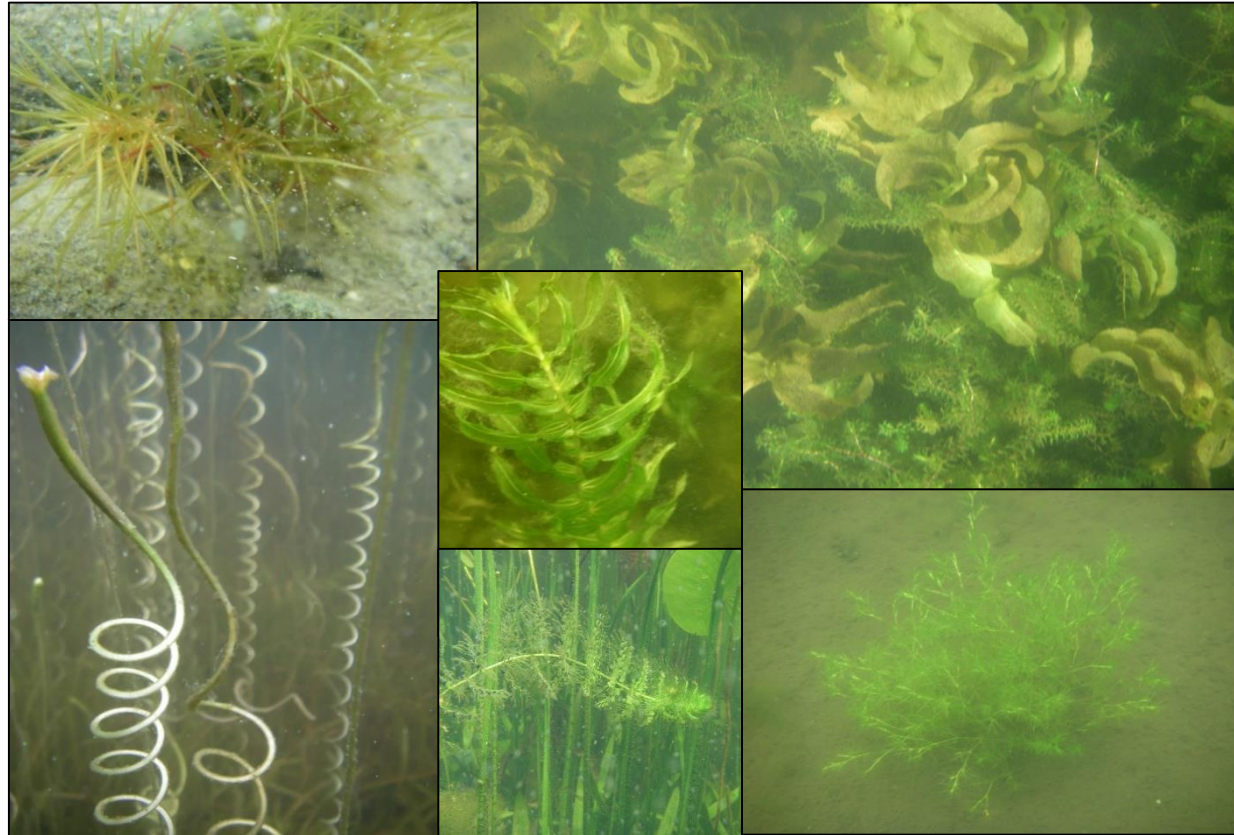


# Aquatic Plant Identification Guide

## *Submersed (underwater)*

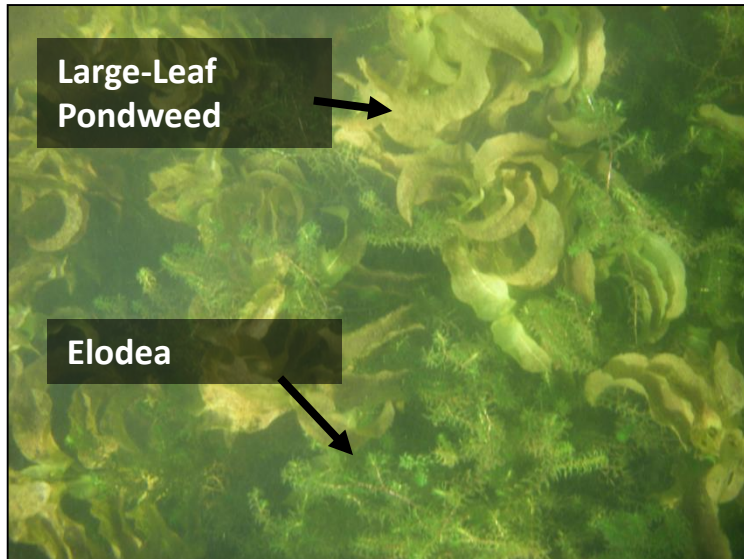


Snohomish County Surface Water Management  
Lake Management Program  
425-388-3204  
lakes@snoco.org  
www.lakes.surfacewater.info

# Native Aquatic Plants



- Part of a healthy lake system; benefit people and wildlife
- Good for fish – provide food and cover, act as a “nursery” for juvenile fish.
- Have natural controls - animals that eat them
- Usually do not cause major problems



The two most common native aquatic plants in Snohomish County are:

- Elodea
- Large-Leaf Pondweed

# Invasive Aquatic Plants



- Grow densely, with few natural enemies; adaptable
- Out-compete & displace native plants
- Create nuisance conditions in lakes: disrupting swimming, fishing, and boating
- Once established - high cost to control



Submersed invasive plants in Snohomish County include:

- Eurasian watermilfoil
- Brazilian Elodea
- Curly-leaf pondweed
- Grass-leaved saggitaria



# You Can Help Prevent Invasive Plants

- Prevention is best approach - much cheaper to prevent than eradicate
- **Clean, drain and dry your boat**
  - Before launching and when leaving





Remove all plant fragments



Check boats & trailers before launching & when leaving

**Milfoil is a BIG problem:**

- Hinders boating, swimming and fishing
- Forms thick mats of vegetation
- Spreads easily by hitching a ride on boats and trailers

**You can help stop it!**



Please act responsibly. Transporting milfoil is illegal.  
R.C.W. 77.15.290

  
Snohomish County  
425-388-3464



## Native Milfoils



- Usually less than 14 leaflet pairs – stems green
- Somewhat stiff plants
- Known to be in Crystal Lake, Lake Loma, Lake Serene, Riley Lake, & Shadow Lake

## Eurasian watermilfoil



- Most problematic aquatic plant in Washington
- Feathery leaves in whorls of 4 – stems often pink
- Usually >14 leaflet pairs
- Spreads by fragments

# Eurasian watermilfoil

*Myriophyllum spicatum*



## Lakes in Snohomish County with known Eurasian Watermilfoil infestations\*:

- Lake Goodwin
- Lake Shoecraft
- Lake Roesiger
- Lake Stevens
- Gissberg/Twin Lakes
- Nina Lake (Private Lake)
- Silver Lake (City of Everett)
- Lake Tye (City of Monroe)
- Lake Ballinger (City of Mountlake Terrace & Edmonds)

*\*Lake Serene and Martha Lake (off 164<sup>th</sup>) formerly had Eurasian watermilfoil, but the plant has been eradicated through control efforts*

**DO NOT RAKE OR CUT PLANTS** - each fragment will create new plants. Instead report new locations to [lakes@snoco.org](mailto:lakes@snoco.org)\*\*

*\*\*For Silver Lake, Lake Tye, and Lake Ballinger contact your respective city.*







## Common Elodea



- Most widespread aquatic plant in Snohomish County
- Leaves in whorls of 3; white flowers
- Provides food & habitat for fish, waterfowl & other life

## Brazilian Elodea

*Egeria densa*



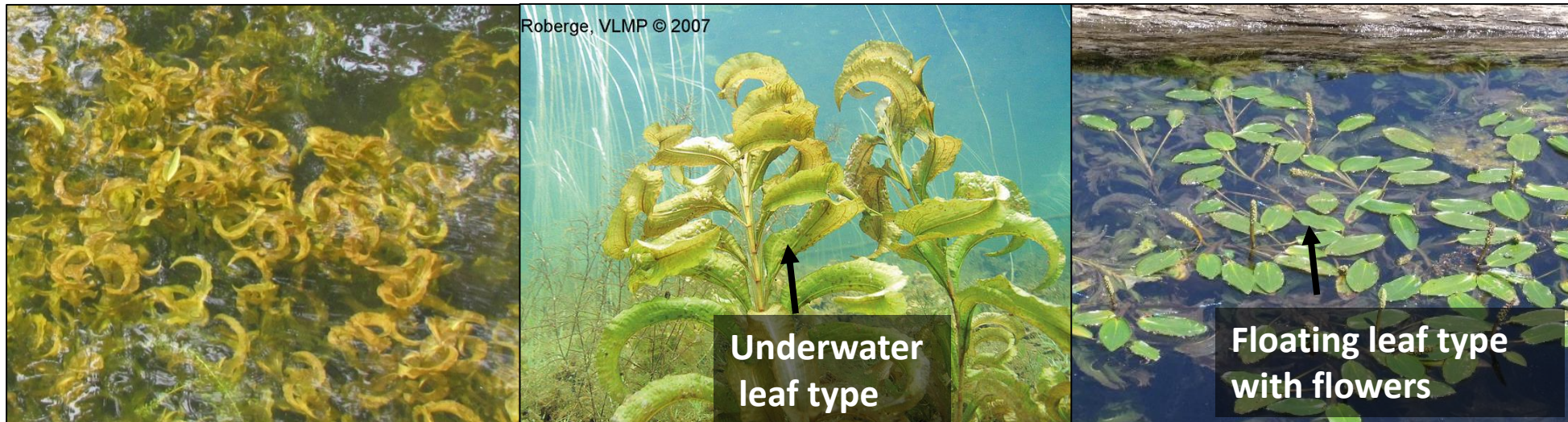
- Leaves in whorls of 4
- Spreads by fragments
- Worst invasive plant in OR
- Found in Swartz Lake, Sammamish River
- Report if found

# Large-Leaf Pondweed

*Potamogeton amplifolius*



- Second most widespread plant in Snohomish County
- Provides great cover for fish and food for aquatic life
- Can grow densely with patches shifting from year-to-year
- 2 distinct leaf types
  - Underwater leaf type - broad and arching
  - Floating leaf type - bright green often with flower





# Curly leaf pondweed

*Potamogeton crispus*



- Wavy, crinkly leaves
- Forms dense, tangled mats
- Spreads by “turions” which are like seeds
- Learn about [control options](#)
  - Report new locations to [lakes@snoco.org](mailto:lakes@snoco.org)

Lakes in Snohomish County with known curly-leaf pondweed infestations:

- Lake Goodwin
- Lake Howard
- Lake Serene
- Lake Stevens



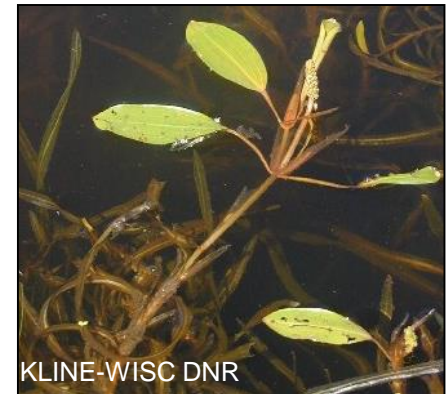
# Other Pondweeds

*Potamogeton spp.*



There are 19 species of pondweed in WA. They can be hard to identify but can be grouped into 3 main types including:

- Small/thin-leaved pondweeds, all submersed  
*e.g. Small pondweed, leafy pondweed & sago pondweed*
- Wider-leaved pondweed, all submersed  
*e.g. White-stemmed, Richardson's, and fern-leaf pondweed*
- Pondweed with submersed and floating leaves  
*e.g. Ribbon-leaf pondweed and grass-leaved pondweed*





# Grass-leaved arrowhead

*Sagittaria graminea*

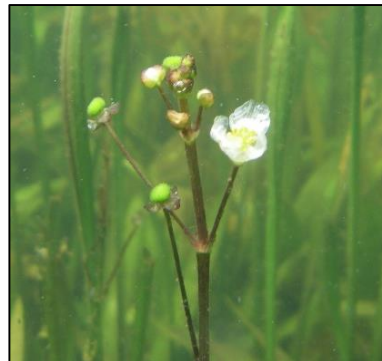


- Plants can be fully or partially underwater
- Long narrow leaves all grow from one base
- White flowers grow on a long flower stem
- Rapidly spreads excluding all other plants
- Only found in two counties in WA: Snohomish and Mason
- Learn about [control options](#)
  - Report new locations to [lakes@snoco.org](mailto:lakes@snoco.org)



Lakes in Snohomish County with known Grass-leaved arrowhead infestations:

- Echo Lake
- Lake Loma
- Lake Roesiger
- Lake Serene





# Naiad

*Najas flexilis*



- Submersed annual with bushy appearance
- Long, narrow leaves tapered to a point; sheathing leaf base
- Important waterfowl food source
- Can grow densely



# Coontail

*Ceratophyllum demersum*



- Submersed, rootless (free-floating)
- Leaves with multiple forks arranged in whorls with dense tips
- Gets nutrients directly from water
- Provides habitat for young fish and aquatic animals & insects
- Can be confused with Eurasian watermilfoil



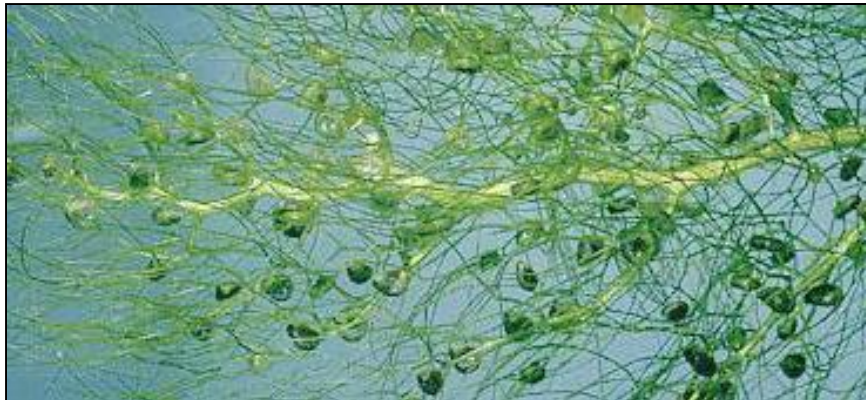


# Common bladderwort

*Utricularia vulgaris*



- Carnivorous plants with tiny bladder-like traps
- Free-floating, rootless
- Gets nutrients from trapped invertebrates and from water
- May be confused with Eurasian watermilfoil

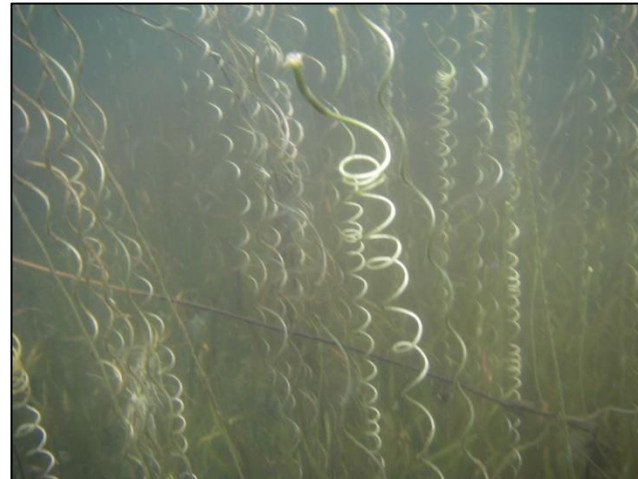




# Tapegrass or Water celery

*Vallisneria americana*

- Long, ribbon-like leaves with Corkscrew-like flower stalks
- Spreads mainly by rhizomes
- Provides food for waterfowl
- Introduced to WA but has not been problematic

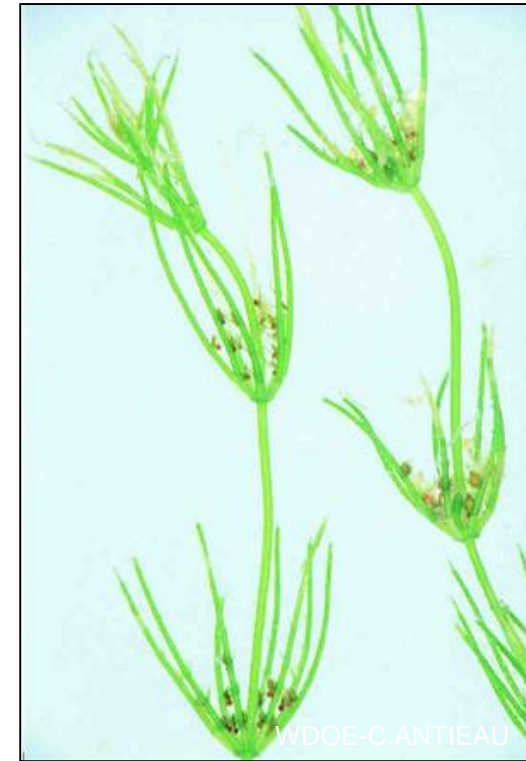
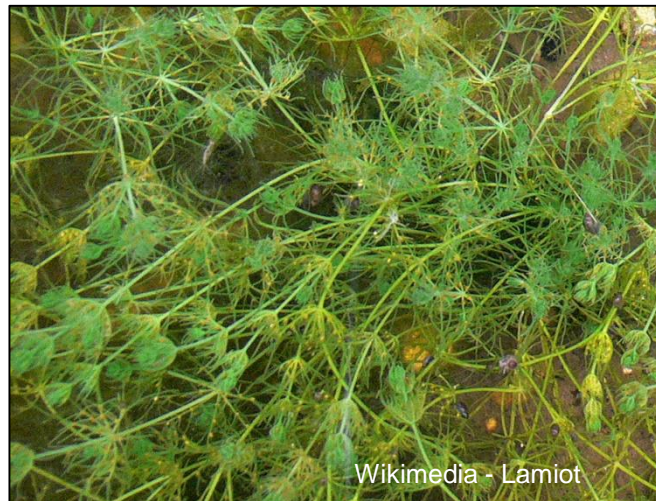


# Muskgrass or Stonewort

*Chara* spp.



- Macro algae that grow like flowering plants
- No true leaves or roots
- Gritty texture; orange fruiting bodies
- Strong skunk-like or musty odor



# Need more plant ID help?

- Aquatic plants are often hard to identify and not all are shown in this presentation. We can help - email a photo to [lakes@snoco.org](mailto:lakes@snoco.org).
- See what plants have been found in your lake from the WA State Department of Ecology [Lake Database](#) or see their full aquatic plant [identification manual](#).

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